

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 EB-11 FSI-01 PM-07 INR-10 IO-14

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 DRC-01 DPW-01 PRS-01

OMB-01 SS-20 /120 W

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P R 181100Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8209

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USDEL JEC PARIS

CIA

DIA

JCS

JUSMAAG

WHITE HOUSE

USAJFKCMA

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDAO SAIGON

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CO 7TH PSYOPS GP
CINCPACFLT

CINCUSARPAC
DEPCHIEF JUSMAAG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 SAIGON 18171

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT PFOR ECON VS
SUBJECT. EMBASSY SAIGON'S MISSION WEEKLY, OCTOBER 12-OCTOBER 18

BANGKOK ALSO PASS OSA; DEP ALSO FOR AID/W; CINCPAC FOR POLAD;
DOD-PRO USAJFKCMA ATTN: ATCS-WL-DSA

THE WEEK IN BRIEF

MILITARY ACTIVITY IN MR 1 UP A BIT; IN MR 2, LE MINH
CAMPAIGN MOVING SLOWLY; IN MR 3, VN AUTHORITIES NOW
FEEL ATTACK NOT IMMINENT; MR 4 FAIRLY AQUITE.

ME. NGO BA THANH ACTIVE

"ADMINISTRATIVE REVOLUTION" STILL IN INITIAL PHASE,
BUT BEGINNING TO SHOW RESULTS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ORGANIZES; DAN CHU PARTY FIRMLY IN
CONTROL; TRAN VAN LAM NEW SENATE CHAIRMAN

THIEU'S VISIT TO THAILAND (NOV 5-7) STILL ON

GVN FEELS LE DUC THO DIDN'T MERIT NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

GVN RELEASES TEXT OKVTAY NINH PROTEST NOTE

HUNGARIAN FONMIN, VISA-LESS, DENIED ENTRY TO VIETNAM

NO BILATERAL TALKS LAST WEEK

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HANOI LEADERS START TOUR OF EASTERN EUROPE

FRENCH ECONOMIC TEAM LEAVES DRV

RICE PRICE UP AGAIN BY SIX PERCENT; GVN MAKES
EMERGENCY LOAN OF 5,000 MT TO GKR

PRICES UP 1.9 PERCENT, RISE FOR YEAR TO DATE NOW 54.5

PERCENT

US \$100 GREEN BLACK MARKET RATE UP 20 PIASTERS,
565 ON OCTOBER 15; GOLD STABLE; OFFICIAL EXCHANGE
DEPRECIATES 5 PIASTERS MORE TO 525:1

I. INTERNAL

A. THE CEASEFIRE

ACTIVITY INCREASED SOMEWHAT IN MR 1 AS BOTH SIDES MADE
SIGNIFICANT MOVES. ARVN AIRBORNE FORCES SOUGHT TO CONSOLIDATE
ITS POSITIONS ALONG THE BO RIVER JUST NORTHWEST OF HUE, AND MADE
SOME HEADWAY AGAINST HEAVY COMMUNIST OPPOSITION. THE NVA SUCCEEDED
IN DRIVING THE RF OFF BACH MA MOUNTAIN, 40 MILES SE OF HUE. IN
MR 2, THE CAMPAIGN TO RETAKE LE MINH IS MOVING SLOWLY, AS MR-2 CG
GENERAL TOAN'S IMMEDIATE GOAL IS DESTRUCTION OF THE OPPOSING
ENEMY FORCE RATHER THAN THE RECAPTURE OF THE BASE PER SE. BINH
DINH AUTHORITIES CLAIM TO HAVE WRESTED ALL HAMLETS IN TAM QUAN
DISTRICT EAST OF ROUTE 1 FROM COMMUNIST CONTROL AND TO HAVE LARGELY
CUT ENEMY RESUPPLY BY SEA. DESPITE INDICATIONS RECEIVED EARLIER
IN THE WEEK OF A POSSIBLE ATTACK, MR 3 AUTHORITIES HAVE REASSESSED
THE COMMUNIST THREAT TO TAY NINH AND DECIDED THAT AN ATTACK
THERE IS NOT IMMINENT, BUT ARE MAKING PRECAUTIONARY
DEFENSIVE MOVES IN THE SAIGON CORRIDOR, THROUGH WHICH THEY DO
FEEL AN ATTACK WILL EVENTUALLY BE MADE. IN MR 4, THE SOUTHERN
DELTA REMAINED RELATIVELY QUIET, REINFORCING ESTIMATES THAT
VC-MR 3 IS IN THE THROES OF REORGANIZATION. THE HEAVIEST FIGHTING
OCCURRED ON THE PERIPHERY OF TRI PHAP, DINH TUONG/KIEN PHONG
PROVINCES WHERE ARVN CONTINUED TO CONSOLIDATE ITS ENCIRCLEMENT
BUT HAS NOT YET TRIED TO PENETRATE INTO THE VC BASE AREA ITSELF.
RANGER UNITS MADE SOME PROGRESS IN THEIR COSTLY BUT DOGGED STRUGGLE
UP GIAI MOUNTAIN; CHAU DOC PROVINCE. IN THE FACE OF STRIDENT
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COMMUNIST ALLEGATIONS AND THREATS, NO DISCUSSION OF RELEVANT
BUSINESS WAS POSSIBLE IN EITHER THE FPJMT OR THE TPJMC. THE PRG
SEIZED ON A POWER FAILURE AS THE PRETEXT FOR BOYCOTTING THE OCTOBER
12 TPJMC MEETING AND THE LOC NINH LIAISON FLIGHT OF OCTOBER 15
WAS ABORTED BY A WRANGLE OVER EXCESSIVE PRG CARGO. THE GVN HAS
REFUSED ENTRY TO THE VIA-LESS HUNGARIAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER.
A \$5.7 MILLION US CONTRIBUTION TO THE ICCS PRECLUDED TERMINATION
OF CONTRACTOR SERVICES AND EXTENSIVE ICCS WITHDRAWAL FROM REGIONS
AND SUB-REGIONS.

B. MADAME NGO BA THANH AGAIN ACTIVE

OPPOSITIONIST MADAME NGO BA THANH LOST NO TIME FOLLOWING
HER RELEASE FROM JAIL SEPTEMBER 21 IN RESUMING HER DISSIDENT
ACTIVITIES. SHE HAS GIVEN NUMEROUS INTERVIEWS TO THE FOREIGN PRESS

IN WHICH SHE CHARACTERIZES HER RELEASE A "VICTORY" FOR "PEACE-
LOVING ELEMENTS," DECLARES SHE WILL LEAD THE "THIRD FORCE,"
AND HARSHLY CRITICIZES THE GVN. SHE HAS MOVED TO REACTIVATE
THE "VIETNAMESE WOMAN'S ASSOCIATION FOR THE RIGHT TO LIVE" (VWARL),
WHICH SERVED AS A PRINCIPAL FORUM FOR HER OPPOSITION PRIOR TO
INCARCERATION BY THE GVN IN SEPTEMBER 1971. ON OCTOBER 5 ONE
OF MADAME THANH'S CLOSE ASSOCIATES, RADICAL LOWER HOUSE DEPUTY
KIEU MONG THU, SOUGHT TO HOLD A RECEPTION FOR MADAME THANH AT
THE HOTEL CONTINENTAL IN DOWNTOWN SAIGON. THE
GVN REFUSED PERMISSIGH FOR THE AFFAIR, BUT MADAME THANH AND HER
ASSOCIATES GATHERED OSTENTATIUSLY ON THE SIDEWALK BEFORE THE
HOTEL GAINING A GOOD DEAL OF PRESS EXPOSURE THERBY. ON OCTOBER 8, A
GVN SPOKESMAN SAID THAT MADAME THANH'S CURRENT PRONUNCIAMENTO'S
SOUND LIKE THEY WERE REFLECTING COSVN INSTRUCTIONS."

ON OCTOBER 16, MADAME THANH HELD ANOTHER "SIDEWALK" PRESS
CONFERENCE, THIS TIME HISTRIONICALLY ACCUSING THE GVN OF HAVING

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NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 DRC-01 DPW-01 PRS-01

OMB-01 SS-20 ISO-00 /120 W

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P R 181100Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8210

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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USDEL JEC PARIS
CIA
DIA
JCS
JUSMAAG
WHITE HOUSE
USAJFKCMA
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMCONSUL CAN THO
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMCONSUL DANANG
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 3 SAIGON 18171

BANGKOK ALSO PASS OSA; DEPT ALSO FOR AID/W; CINCPAC FOR
POLAD; DOD-PRO USAJFKCMA ATTN: ATCS-WL-DSA

SET HOOLIGANS UPON HER WHO ALLEGEDLY BROKE THE WINDOWS OF HER CAR
AND PHYSICALLY ASSAULTED HER. MADAME THANH DISPLAYED A DAMAGED
VEHICLE AND A CUT LIP AS EVIDENCE OF THE ALLEGED ASSAULT. ON
OCTOBER 17, A GVN SPOKESMAN DENIED THAT MADAME THANH WOULD BE
DEPRIVED OF PROTECTION OF THE LAW AND ASSERTED THAT THE INCIDENT HAD
BEEN PERPETRATED BY A STREET GANG WITHOUT ANY OFFICIAL INVOLVE-
MENT. HOWEVER, THE GVN OFFICIAL POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT
COULD NOT GUARANTEE COMPLETELY THE SAFETY OF "CONCEITED" PERSONS
WHO INSIST ON TERMING THE LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT OF THE RVN THE
"SAIGON REGIME."

COMMENT: MADAME THANH IS GAINING MORE VISIBILITY AS THE DAYS
PASS. THIS CAN ONLY FURTHER IRRITATE THE AUTHORITIES.

C. ADMINISTRATIVE REVOLUTION: INITIAL STAGES CONTINUE

THE GVN'S ADMINISTRATIVE REVOLUTION, FORMALLY LAUNCHED WITH
PRESIDENT THIEU'S JULY 10 SPEECH, IS STILL MOSTLY IN INTS INITIAL
PHASES. THE GVN HAS BEEN FOCUSING ON (A) RETRAINING CIVIL SERVANTS
AT THE VUNG TAU TRAINING CENTER AND SENDING HIGHER-RANKING OFFICIALS

TO TEN-DAY SEMINARS IN SAIGON AND (B) STUDYING PROPOSALS FOR REORGANIZING LOCAL GOVERNMENT, DECENTRALIZING POWER AND REFORMING GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION.

ON OCTOBER 15 PRESIDENT THIEU SPOKE AT THE CLOSING SESSION OF THE FIFTH TEN-DAY SEMINAR FOR OFFICIALS AND REEMPHASIZED SOME OF THE GOALS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE REVOLUTION PRESENTED IN HIS JULY 10 SPEECH. HE WARNED OFFICIALS TO AVOID "DOING NOTHING, JUST GIVING O
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DERS" AND TOLD THEM TO GET DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THEIR SUBORDINATES' WORK AND HELP INSTILL A SENSE OF SERVICE IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE CADRE. HE AGAIN STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF DECENTRALIZING AUTHORITY AS THE WAY TO BRING SERVICES DIRECTLY TO THE PEOPLE. HE REVIEWED SOME OF THE MEASURES RECENTLY ENACTED TO DELEGATE POWERS FROM SAIGON MINISTRIES TO FIELD SERVICES. HE SAID THAT AFTER THESE MEASURES ARE PROMULGATED THE GVN WILL STUDY THE MANPOWER AND RESOURCES NEEDED TO IMPLEMENT THEM. THIS IS ALL TO BE COMPLETED BY NEXT MONHI SO THE NEW SYSTEM CAN BE TESTED PRIOR TO ITS FULL IMPLEMENTATION IN EARLY 1974.

THERE HAS BEEN RELATIVELY LITTLE REACTION FROM THE PROVINCES SO FAR, BUT REPORTS FROM MR 3 INDICATE THAT PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS THERE ARE CUTTENTLY PREOCCUPIED WITH VUNG TAU TRAINING AND PLANS FOR COPING WITH HORDES OF URBAN OFFICIALS THEN EXPECT TO DESCENT ON THEM FOR FIELD ORIENTATION. THERE IS SOME QUESTION ABOUT WHAT THE CITY FOLK WILL DO OR EVEN WHERE THEY WILL SIT IN ALREADY-CROWDED PROVINCIAL OFFICES. SEVERAL PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES IN MR 3 HAVE POINTED OUT THAT DECENTRALIZATION MAY INCREASE EFFICIENCY BUT WILL ALSO INCREASE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CORRUPTION. PRESIDENT THIEU VOICED THIS SAME CONCERN IN HIS OCTOBER 15 SPEECH. ONE PROVINCE CHIEF IN MR 3 HAS REPORTEDLY ALREADY STARTED TO PLAN CONTROL MECHANISMS.

COMMENT: WHILE MOST OF THIS IS PRELUDE, THERE ARE SIGNS THAT THE IDEA OF IMPROVING GOVERNMENT SERVICES HAS CAUGHT ON HERE AND THERE. IN LONG AN PROVINCE A VILLAGE CHIEF WHO RECENTLY RETURNED FROM VUNG TAU CUT PROCESSING TIME FOR ID CARDS FROM SIX WEEKS TO THREE OR FOUR DAYS AND FOR BIRTH REGISTRATIONS TO ONE DAY. THE EMBASSY HAS NOTED A MARKED SPEEDUP IN THE ISSUANCE OF PASSPORTS TO ELIGIBLE VIETNAMESE TRAVELING TO THE U.S.

D. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ORGANIZES FOR THE 1973-74 TERM:

THE TWO HOUSES OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ARE ORGANIZING FOR THE 1973-74 LEGISLATIVE YEAR. ON OCTOBER 11, THE LOWER HOUSE ELECTED OFFICERS FOR THAT CHAMBER, AND INITIAL BLOC MEMBERSHIPS WERE ANNOUNCED FOR THAT CHAMBER. (UPPER HOUSE OFFICIALS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ARE BEING ELECTED OCTOBER 18, SEE BELOW.)

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NGUYEN BA CAN WAS REELECTED LOWER HOUSE CHAIRMAN AT THE HEAD OF A PRO-ADMINISTRATION SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR THE 18 VACANT POSITIONS. THE ONLY SLATE RUNNING, CAN'S LIST WAS VOTED IN BY A BIG MAJOIRTY, AS THE OPPOSITION STAYED AWAY. REALIGNMENTS IN THE LOWER HOUSE BLOCS AFFECTED ONLY THE INDEPENDENT AND OPPOSITION DEPUTIES. THE OPPOSITION PEOPLE'S BLOC, LOSING ONE DEPUTY, DROPS TO 28 MEMBERS. THE INDEPENDENT PEOPLE'S RIGHT BLOC LOSES SIX MEMBERS AND WITH JUST 19 REMAINING, FALLS BELOW THE MINIMUM FOR FORMAL BLOC STATUS. THESE DEFACTOR WILL PRESUMABLY SIDE HENCEFORTH WITH THE ADMINISTRATION. THIS AND OTHER INDICATED NEW SUPPORT GIVES THE GOVERNMENT A PROBABLE MAJORITY OF SLIGHTLY OVER 100 DEPUTIES, JUST UNDER TWO-THIRDS OF THE CHAMBER.

ADMINISTRATION-BACKED SENATORS MADE A CLEAN SWEEP OF THE OCTOBER 18 UPPER HOUSE VOTING. HOWEVER, TWO MAJOR COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN-SHIPS (FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE) WENT UNOPPOSED TO INCUMBENTS WHO ARE NOT GVN LOYALISTS, ALTHOUGH BOTH ARE OFTEN FAVORABLY INCLINED TOWARD THE ADMINISTRATION AND RECEIVED ITS SUPPORT IN THEIR BIDS FOR REELECTION. FOR
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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 EB-11 FSI-01 PM-07 INR-10 IO-14

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OMB-01 SS-20 /120 W
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P R 181100Z OCT 73
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AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
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CIA
DIA
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AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
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AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMCONSUL DANANG
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 3 SAIGON 18171

PART II. EXTERNAL

A. PRESIDENT THIEU'S TRIP TO THAILAND STILL ON

IN RESPONSE TO REPORTERS' QUESTIONS, GVN SPOKESMEN
TOLD PRESS OCTOBER 16 THAT PRESIDENT THIEU STILL INTENDED TO
GO TO THAILAND AS SCHEDULED NOVEMBER 5-7, THAT MAY CHANGE IN
THE SCHEDULE WOULD BE MADE ONLY AT THIEU'S REQUEST, AND THAT
NO SUCH REQUEST HAD BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE THAI GOVERNMENT.

B. GVN RAPS AWARD OF NOBEL PEACE PRIZE TO LE DUC THO

GVN SPOKESMAN TOLD PRESS OCTOBER 17 THAT LE DUC THO
IS NOT WORTHY CO-RECIPIENT, ALONG WITH US SECSTATE KISSINGER,
OF NOBEL PEACE PRIZE AS: DRV IS NOT RESPECTING CEASEFIRE
AGREEMENT; US HAD BEEN OBLIGED TO SERVE AS INTERMEDIARY IN
PEACE NEGOTIATIONS, ONLY BECAUSE NORTH VIET-NAM REFUSED TO
TALK DIRECTLY TO GVN; AND DRV HAD ONLY SIGNED PARIS AGREEMENT
BECAUSE IT WAS MILITARILY DEFEATED IN 1972.

C. GVN RELEASES NOTE ON TAY NINH FIGHTING

ON OCTOBER 17 GVN RELEASED TEXT OF OCTOBER 10 NOTE
TO PARTICIPANTS IN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON VIET-NAM
PROTESTING SEPTEMBER 29 COMMUNIST ATTACKS ON ARVN IN TAY NINH.

D. HUNGARIAN VICE FOREIGN MINISTER DENIED ENTRY INTO VIET-NAM

THE GVN HAD DENIED AUTHORIZATION FOR HUNGARIAN
VICE FOREIGN MINISTER JOSEPH MARJAI, TO ENTER VIET-NAM. THE
HUNGARIAN ICCS DELEGATION HAD INFORMED GVN OF MARGAI'S
INTENTION TO COME TO SAIGON ON OCTOBER 16 AND HAD REQUESTED
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AUTHORIZATION FOR HIM TO VISIT LOC NINH WHILE IN VIET-NAM.
GVN HAD FIRST DENIED PERMISSION FOR THIS VISIT TO COMMUNIST
OCCUPIED TERRITORY AND THEN, WHEN HUNGARIANS DID NOT APPLY
FOR VISA OR WAIVER, FOR MARJAI TO ENTER VIET-NAM AT ALL.
RECENT ANTI-GVN STATEMENT AT UN BY HUNGARIAN FOREIGN MINISTER
(SAIGON 17789, MISSION WEEKLY OCT 5-11) MAY HAVE BEEN
PARTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR GVN ACTION.

E. BILATERAL TALKS IN PARIS INTERRUPTED

NO GVN/PRG BILATERAL TALKS OCCURRED LAST WEEK. PRG
HAS APPARENTLY NOT REPLIED TO GVN PROPOSAL THAT NEXT SESSION
BE HELD OCT 25 (SAIGON 17789) AND DENOUNCED THE
GVN FOR REFUSING TO ATTEND OCTOBER 11 SESSION AS PROPOSED BY
PRG ON OCTOBER 4.

F. DRV LEADERS BEGIN EAST EUROPE VISIT.

VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY (VNA) REPORTED ON OCTOBER 16
THAT PREMIER PHAM VAN DONG AND FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN DUY TRINH
HAD DEPARTED HANOI BOUND FOR EASTERN EUROPE. THE NORTH
VIETNAMESE DELEGATION WILL VISIT EAST GERMANY AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA,
TWO OF THE COUNTRIES OMITTED FROM THE ITINERARY OF DONG'S
EUROPEAN TOUR LAST JULY AND AUGUST. WHILE THE DRV HAS
ALREADY SIGNED 1974 AID AGREEMENTS WITH THE EAST GERMANS,
THE PRESENCE ON THE NORTH VIETNAMESE DELEGATION OF NGUYEN
VAN KHA (DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE STATE PLANNING COMMISSION)
AND GENERAL TRAN SAM, WHO HAS LONG BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH
MILITARY AID MISSION, SUGGESTS THAT HANOI IS SEEKING
ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE FROM ITS COMMUNIST FRIENDS.

G. FRENCH ECONOMIC DELEGATION CONCLUDES DRV VISIT

A FRENCH ECONOMIC DELEGATION, LED BY RANCOIS
MISSOFFE, LEFT HANOI ON OCTOBER 13 AFTER A 10-DAY VISIT TO
THE DRV. THE PURPOSE OF THE DELEGATION'S VISIT WAS TO
SURVEY REQUIREMENTS FOR POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION AND

DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE. ACCORDING TO AN OCTOBER 14 VNA
DESPATCH, THE DELEGATION CONFERRED WITH DRV ECONOMIC
OFFICIALS INCLUDING LE KHAC, VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE STATE
PLANNING COMMISSION, MINISTER OF FINANCE DANG VIET CHAU
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AND THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE SATE BANK TO HOANG CO.
NO DETAILS OF THESE DISCUSSIONS WERE GIVEN.

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III. ECONOMIC

A. GENERAL

IN AN OTHERWISE QUIET WEEK, THE RICE SITUATION CONTINUED
TO OCCUPY CENTER STAGE. DESPITE ITS OWN PROBLEMS, THE GVN
RESPONDED TO AN EMERGENCY SITUATION IN PHNOM PENH BY LOANING
5,000 TONS OF RICE TO THE GKR FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY. THE FIRST
OF THIS RICE WAS LOADED AND SHIPPED WITHIN THREE DAYS OF THE
REQUEST. MEANWHILE, PUBLIC DISCONTENT WITH CURRENT GVN RICE POLICY
WAS GROWING MORE VOCAL AS FREE MARKET PRICES ROSE ANOTHER 6
PERCENT. THRONGS OF PEOPLE AT AUTHORIZED OUTLETS FOR GSA RICE ARE
COMMON. A SUBSTANTIAL EXPANSION OF GSA SALES IS EXPECTED
WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

POSSIBILITIES FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE GVN
FROM THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY WERE ENHANCED THIS WEEK
WITH THE VISIT OF A SPECIAL DELEGATION FROM BONN. OTHER VISITORS
TO SAIGON INCLUDED MORE THAN 50 DELEGATES FROM TEN ASIAN NATIONS
TO ATTEND A THREE DAY MEETING OF THE ASIAN-PACIFIC COUNCIL OF
AMERICAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE. THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME THIS
GROUP HAS MET IN SAIGON.

B. PRICES

WITH ANOTHER 1.9 PERCENT INCREASE FOR THE WEEK ENDING
OCTOBER 15, THE USAID SAIGON RETAIL PRICE INDEX HAS NOW RISEN 54.5
PERCENT FOR THE YEAR TO DATE. OVER HALF OF THE LATEST INCREASE
WAS AGAIN ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE INCREASE IN RICE PRICES.

C. BLACK MARKET CURRENCY AND GOLD

BLACK MARKET CURRENCY QUOTES CLIMBED ANOTHER 20
PIASTERS OVER THE PAST WEEK WITH US\$ 100 GREEN REACHING 565
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ON OCTOBER 15. THE PRICE OF GOLD LEAF, IN CONTRAST, APPEARS TO HAVE STABILIZED FOR THE TIME BEING. WHILE UP 500 PIASTERS FROM A WEEK EARLIER, THE OCTOBER 15 QUOTE OF VN\$ 72,500 PER TAEI IS STILL 1,000 PIASTERS UNDER THE PRICE ON OCTOBER 1. THE OFFICIAL EXCHANGE RATE WAS DEPRECIATED A FURTHER 5 PIASTERS TO 525:1 ON OCTOBER 16, THE CIP RATE CHANGING TO 425.
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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 18 OCT 1973
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Disposition Authority: willialc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS MARTIN
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ISecure: 1
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Line Count: 555
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Office: ACTION EA
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Subject: EMBASSY'S SAIGON'S MISSION WEEKLY OCT. 12 - OCT 18
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, ECON, VS
To: n/a
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005